

By: Garza

H.R. No. 2391

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Felix D. Almaraz, Jr., the Peter T. Flawn  
2 Distinguished Professor of Borderlands History at The University of  
3 Texas at San Antonio, is retiring in August 2011, bringing to a  
4 close his illustrious career in higher education; and

5           WHEREAS, A noted teacher and scholar, Dr. Almaraz is an  
6 expert on the history of Texas, San Antonio, the Borderlands,  
7 colonial Latin America, and imperial and modern Spain, and his  
8 extensive research and writing have done much to increase our  
9 understanding of and appreciation for this state's Hispanic  
10 heritage; and

11           WHEREAS, A native of San Antonio, Dr. Almaraz obtained an  
12 associate of arts degree from San Antonio College in 1957 and then  
13 attended St. Mary's University, where he graduated magna cum laude  
14 with a bachelor of arts degree in 1959 and earned a master of arts  
15 degree in 1962; he received his Ph.D. from the University of New  
16 Mexico in 1968; and

17           WHEREAS, Dr. Almaraz began his career as a history and  
18 government teacher in the Harlandale Independent School District in  
19 1960; he subsequently worked as a historical information analyst  
20 with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at Los Alamos, New Mexico, in  
21 1966 and as director of the South San Antonio Independent School  
22 District Bilingual Education Center from 1970 to 1973 before  
23 joining the faculty at UTSA; over the years, he has also held  
24 teaching appointments at St. Mary's University, Pan American

1 College, and The University of Texas at Austin; and

2         WHEREAS, Dr. Almaraz has edited and compiled a number of  
3 publications and has written numerous articles and essays; he is  
4 the author of several published books, including *Tragic Cavalier:*  
5 *Governor Manuel Salcedo of Texas, 1808-1813*, *Crossroad of Empire:*  
6 *The Church and State on the Rio Grande Frontier of Coahuila and*  
7 *Texas, 1700-1821*, and *The San Antonio Missions and Their System of*  
8 *Land Tenure*; his biography of the historian Carlos Eduardo  
9 Castaneda, titled *Knight without Armor*, won the Spur Award for Best  
10 Western Nonfiction-Biography from the Western Writers of America  
11 and garnered tributes from the Catholic Historical Society and the  
12 American Association for State and Local History; and

13         WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has given generously of his time  
14 and expertise to advance the work of many organizations; he has  
15 served as chair and vice chair of the Bexar County Historical  
16 Commission and as a member of the Texas State Historical Records  
17 Advisory Board, the Historical Representation Advisory Committee  
18 of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, and the San  
19 Antonio Missions National Historical Park Advisory Commission; he  
20 has also held the offices of president and vice president of the  
21 Texas State Historical Association and president of the Texas  
22 Catholic Historical Society; and

23         WHEREAS, Professor Almaraz has earned myriad accolades  
24 during his highly accomplished career, among them honors from the  
25 governments of Spain and Mexico, appointment as a Senior Fulbright  
26 Scholar in the Republic of Argentina, and induction as a Fellow of  
27 the Texas State Historical Association and as a member of the Texas

1 Institute of Letters; the UTSA Alumni Association has presented him  
2 with its Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, and UTSA has  
3 conferred on him the President's Distinguished Achievement Award;  
4 in 2005, the university named Dr. Almaraz a Peter T. Flawn  
5 Distinguished Professor; and

6 WHEREAS, Highly respected by his peers and his students, Dr.  
7 Felix D. Almaraz, Jr., has forged a body of work that has  
8 contributed significantly to our knowledge of Texas and Borderlands  
9 history, and he may reflect with justifiable pride on an  
10 extraordinary record of accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Felix D. Almaraz, Jr., on his  
13 retirement from The University of Texas at San Antonio and extend to  
14 him sincere gratitude for his exemplary service; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for Dr. Almaraz as an expression of high regard by the  
17 Texas House of Representatives.